

Funding the Reserve Components Resolution 18-05

WHEREAS, DoD has established a flat rate per diem policy in the Joint Travel Regulations (JTR) which reduces the per diem rate for lodging, meals and other expenses to as low as 55 percent of the locality rate; and

WHEREAS, changes to the JTR per diem rate has caused servicemembers to be housed in substandard quarters or located in unsafe areas; and

WHEREAS, GAO-17-353 DOD Joint Travel Regulations report found the flat rate per diem policy has affected civilian employees' willingness to travel on long-term TDYs resulting in workers less willing to volunteer for long-term Temporary Duty because of the policy (note: military technicians travel in civilian status); and

WHEREAS, the Army previously interpreted the Joint Federal Travel Regulations vicinity rule governing housing allowances to pay housing allowance for a family residence and another for housing at a deployed duty station but have now rescinded that interpretation which has resulted in servicemember debt; and

WHEREAS, Col Richard Gulley and other reservists were criminally processed, accused of larceny and fraud and issued general officer reprimands due to no fault of their own being paid housing allowances based on Army payments under the JTR; and

WHEREAS, a 2018 class-action complaint filed April 9 in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims the Army Criminal Investigation Command confirmed at least 140 soldiers in 2016 were affected by the Basic Allowance for Housing policy change, and at least 350 in fiscal 2017;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ROA, chartered by Congress, urge the Department of Defense to not change policies and/or legislation that reduces entitlements or causes Reserve Component servicemembers to absorb the cost of performing duty.

Adopted by the National Convention, 30 Sep 2018

Source: Department of the NCR, 7 Jun 2018